[English]

**Transfer to Funds**

4321. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent arrangements for transfer of funds to States allocated under the Centrally sponsored projects for the schemes to provide minimum services will be started from August, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also enhanced the outlay in this regard;

(c) whether States will have freedom to choose the "minimum services" schemes they would like to implement;

(d) if so, whether this decision was taken after discussing with the Chief Ministers during its latest conference; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e). The Conference of Chief Ministers held on July 4-5, 1996 identified seven Basic Minimum Services for priority attention with the objective of making an all out effort for their attainment by 2000 AD. These services are: (i) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas; (ii) 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas; (iii) Universalisation of primary education; (iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families; (v) Extension of Mid-day-Meal Programme in primary schools to all rural block and urban slums and disadvantaged sections; (vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations; and (vii) Streamline the Public Distribution System with focus upon the poor.

It was further decided that within these Basic Minimum Services, focus would be on the attainment of the first three objectives within the next 2-3 years. However, States which have achieved satisfactory results in these areas, cab choose for their priority attention other components from among these seven Basic Minimum Services suited to their requirements.

For the financial year 1996-97, the Central Government has provided an additional outlay of Rs. 2216 crores as additional Central Assistance to States, exclusively for these Minimum Services. This would be in addition to the provision already made in the State plans for these seven identified services. It has been proposed that these funds would be routed through the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the concerned nodal Departments/Ministries and the States would have the freedom to choose from among these.

**Price of Paraffin Wax**

4322. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the price of paraffin wax and slack wax been increased since December 1994 and the quantum of increase on each occasion;

(b) the reasons for this increase;

(c) whether there has been a commensurate increase in the price of end-product produced by wax manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) since December, 1994 the ex-storage point price of Paraffin Wax was increased only once effective 3.7.1996 by 30%. The sllack wax is a free trade product and Oil Companies are free to fix the selling price of slack wax based on market considerations.

(b) The price increase has been necessitated to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and thus enable the Oil companies to maintain uninterrupted supply of petroleum products in the country.

(c) to (e). This data is not maintained.

**Water Supply**

4323. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the people residing in MCD are facing a shortfall of 28% of drinking water supply and those residing under NDMC area are receiving 27% surplus of water supply;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this disparity is proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). The NDMC has reported that there is no surplus water supply in the NDMC area. However, there is a shortfall of approx. 20% of potable water against the assessed drinking water requirement of Delhi. However, areas in Delhi under Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking are receiving 257 LPCD which is better than the supply position of drinking water in other metropolitan cities of the country.

Following steps have been taken by the Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking to make more